

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2. Please also amend claims 1 and 3-6, and add new claims 7 and 8, as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (currently amended) A numerical expression retrieving device for completing and retrieving a numerical expression, ~~in a natural language~~, comprising:

input means for inputting ~~any document to be retrieved or any numerical expression to be retrieved~~; a record to be retrieved, the record containing an incomplete numerical expression;

syntactic parsing means for parsing a syntactic structure of the inputted ~~document or numerical expression~~; record;

an attribute dictionary which stores attribute information and unit system information therein, the attribute information including attribute names indicative of attributes, attribute contents indicative of meanings of the attributes, and basic units of measurement for supplementing omitted representations, the unit system information including prefixes for deciding omissions, and multiples indicative of meanings of the prefixes;

a co-occurrence word dictionary which stores therein information including attribute names indicative of attributes, and co-occurrence words for deciding the attribute names; and

omission completion means for ~~supplementing~~ completing the incomplete numerical expression by adding a basic unit of measurement to a prefix ~~of in~~ the inputted ~~document or numerical expression record~~, by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and

said attribute ~~dictionary~~, dictionary or by further referring to said co-occurrence word ~~dictionary~~, thereby to ~~complete the incomplete numerical expression~~; dictionary;

extraction means for extracting a word with the basic unit of measurement added to the prefix in the inputted record, as a retrieval keyword for the record after completion of the incomplete numerical expression by the omission completion means;

a document database which stores document data therein; and

document storage and retrieval means for storing the record with the incomplete numerical expression completed, the inputted record, and the extracted retrieval keyword in the document database,

wherein said omission completion means searches the inputted record for a numerical expression shortened to a prefix only, from within the inputted record by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and said co-occurrence word dictionary, determines a co-occurrence word of one of the prefixes included in the unit system information on the basis of the parsed syntactic structure for the incomplete numerical expression, determines an attribute name of said one of the prefixes by referring to said co-occurrence word dictionary on the basis of the determined co-occurrence word, and adds the basic unit of measurement to the prefix in the inputted record by referring to said attribute dictionary on the basis of the determined attribute name.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

3. (currently amended) A numerical expression retrieving device according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:

output means;

wherein said omission completion means decides whether or not the ~~inputted~~ incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record is a numerical expression shortened to a prefix only, by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and said co-occurrence word dictionary, and ~~in case of if~~ the incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record is indeed shortened to ~~the~~ a prefix only, it said omission completion means notifies a user to that effect by said output means and ~~thereby~~ prompts ~~him/her~~ the user to re-input a numerical expression.

4. (currently amended) A numerical expression retrieving device according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:

output means;

wherein said omission completion means decides whether or not the ~~inputted~~ incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record is a numerical expression shortened to a prefix only, by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and said co-occurrence word dictionary, and ~~in case of if~~ the incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record is indeed shortened to ~~the~~ a prefix only, it said omission completion means presents basic units of measurement and attribute information by said output means and ~~thereby~~ prompts a user to select one of the basic units of measurement, and it completes the ~~shortened~~ incomplete numerical expression with ~~the selected~~ a basic unit of measurement selected by the user.

5. (currently amended) A numerical expression ~~retrieving device~~ retrieving device according to claim 4, wherein ~~when the~~ if a basic unit of measurement for completing the ~~shortened incomplete~~ numerical expression has not been selected, said omission completion means completes the shortened numerical expression with all basic units of measurement which can be ~~supplemented~~ added.

6. (currently amended) A numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 3, wherein said document storage and retrieval means retrieves a ~~document~~ record whose retrieval keyword agrees with the ~~inputted incomplete~~ numerical expression in the inputted record, from said document database, and it outputs the ~~document~~ retrieved record as a retrieved result by said output means.

7. (new) A numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, wherein the record comprises a document.

8. (new) A numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, wherein the record comprises a numerical expression.